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FARTHING WOOD FRIENDS

35

Based on the series shown on **BBC** TV.

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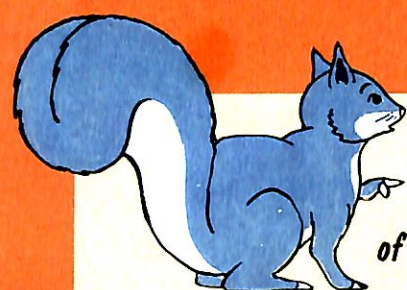
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Editorial and distribution offices
Eaglemoss Publications Ltd
7 Cromwell Road, London SW7 2HR
Customer enquiries: 0424 755755
Trade enquiries: 071 581 1371
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CREDITS

Photographs: Aquila (R Maier) AA2(b); Biofotos (Heather Angel) FF1(c); Bruce
Coleman Ltd (C & D Frith) FF1(b), (J Murray) FF1(c), (Leonard Lee Rue) FF2(b);
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Photographers (L Campbell) AA3(bl), (C Carver) AA3(t), AA4(t), (P Sterry) AA1(b);
Illustrations: Wendy Bramall SW1-3; Brin Edwards/Wildlife Art AA2(tr), AA3(b);
Dale E Evans FWF2-3; Mei Lim front cover; Atholl McDonald HTD1(t), HTD2;
Josephine Martin/Garden Studio FF2(br); Alan Rowe DN1-3; Clive Sponge/
Linden Artists AA1(t), FF2(tr), HTD1(b); Paul Tempest PIO1-4.
Key: AA = All About...; CII = Colour it in; DN = Discovering Nature;
FF = Fascinating Facts; FWF = Farthing Wood Friends page;
HTD = How to Draw; PIO = Puzzle it out; SW = Secret World.

Editor: Joan Gubbin
Deputy editor: Sarah Pendlebury
Consultants: Alwyne Wheeler
Janet Sacks
Section editors: Anne Gatti,
Dayle Helsby

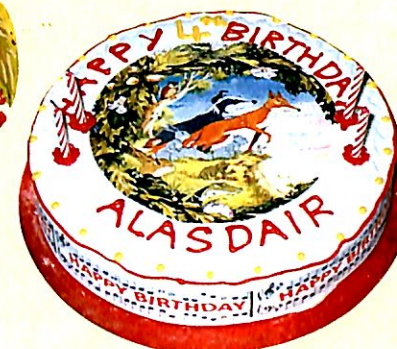
Art editor: Keith Vollans
Deputy art editor: Mark Scribbins
Designer: John Gilland
Picture researcher: Josephine Finnerty
Production controller: Amanda Wheeler



Dear Friends!

Here's a word puzzle for you. If you read
the letters in the right order you will get the
first line of one of Weasel's favourite songs. But do you read from
left to right, up and down, bottom to top? Can you work it out?

F A F T Y R
L P O U N I
A O D P N C
H U N P E E



Here are two Farthing Wood birthday cakes
from Mandy Sears, age 7, and Alasdair Hall
Jones, age 4. What a clever idea!



Write to Joan at:
Farthing Wood
Friends, PO Box
95, Hastings,
TN35 4TJ

What did one orange
say to the other?
I'm not peeling you w!
Joanne Sinclair, age 9



Lauren Kozlowski, age 5

What's the fastest
fish in the river?
A motor pike.
Simon Todd, age 6

I went out fishing in my pond,
My Mum saw a tail wiggling,
And we all started giggling
A Newt!
A Newt!
I went to get my books,
One, two or three.
Wonder what it eats?
A leaf off a tree?
But anyway it's...
A Newt!
A Newt!
Hey Mum can we keep it?
Please, please,
We'll buy a new fish tank,
Whatever it needs.
A Newt!
A Newt!

Chloe Nulty, age 8

There once was a Farthing Wood Show
And all the animals said they would go.
The day of the concert was hot,
And all the creatures gather round the spot.
Then on the stage Weasel appears,
The animals groan and cover their ears.
They stamp their feet and run home in rage
Leaving Weasel alone on the stage.
Roxanne Grimmett, age 11



Marc Cook, age 9

Holly Mitchell,
age 12



ANSWER: Half a pound of tuppenny rice.



Rachel Berg, age 9

THE SUPERMARKET

Fox found a safe place to hide in the yard of a big supermarket. There he met Tom, the supermarket cat. In exchange for shelter and food, Fox agreed to kill some of the rats which were attracted by the waste.

We can be very wasteful when we shop. We should try to re-cycle our rubbish as much as possible. There are many things you can do when you go shopping.

Play this game and see how many ways you can save resources and avoid destroying our planet.

You will need
A counter for each player, a dice, pencil and paper. The game can be played with 2-6 players.

How to play
Throw a dice to see who starts – highest begins at the WAY IN. Take it in turns to throw the dice and move that number of squares. You can choose any route through the supermarket but you must collect 50 eco points before going through the checkout. Make a list of the players' names and note down their points as they get them. Each aisle is worth a number of points – listed at the top. Collect these points each time you go up or down. You also collect points if you land on the eco squares. Other squares will hold you up if you land on them. Once you have 50 eco points, make for a checkout as quickly as possible. First out, wins.

Re-cycle your empties
Lots of supermarkets and shops have bottle, can and paper banks in the car park so take your empties with you when you go shopping.

Lizards

“Greetings! I’m Mrs Common lizard, relative of Sand lizard, Slow worm and Adder (but not a fan, and I’ll tell you why in a minute). That means, of course, that I’m a reptile and have to warm myself up at the beginning of the day before I can get going. Although I’m small (Mole’s quite a bit bigger than me) and I have to hibernate in winter, I’m a survivor. We Common lizards can live in surprisingly different habitats all round the British Isles – in heathland, scrubland, dry moors, the edges of marshes, even some town gardens. Why don’t I like Adders? Simple, really – they eat us lizards. So do Smooth snakes, Grass snakes, rats and birds, like Kestrel.”

Most of us Common lizards are brown with a dark stripe down our backs. We often have dark stripes along our sides as well. Some of us are a bit red, yellow, green or grey. We’re only about 15cm long from our blunt noses to the tips of our tails.

We have sharp claws at the ends of our toes which help us to grip as we scramble up a wall or tree. We females are fatter than the males and our bellies are yellow. The males’ underparts are usually orange with black spots.

Weasel’s Easel
Almost half the
length of a lizard
is its tail!



STUMPY

Sometimes we look a bit like mutants – our tails are stumpy or even have two tips. This happens when we have lost some or all of our tail and a new one (or two) is growing. This is part of our special getaway trick: if a predator grabs us by the tail, we can break it off ourselves and scuttle away, leaving the hunter with a mouthful of tail. The new tail is never as long or as perfect as the first one, but at least we have one.



BUMPY

We also look a bit weird when we’re shedding the outer layer of our skin, which we do from time to time. The skin peels off in chunks and for a while we look more like bits of tree bark on legs than smooth-scaled lizards.

IT’S Amazing!

HEATED UP

Most reptiles lay eggs but Common lizards, like Adders and Slow worms, are viviparous – that means they give birth to fully formed, live young. Their young are able to absorb warmth

through the mother’s skin as she basks in the sun. This helps them to grow. It’s lucky for humans that they’re warm blooded – otherwise mothers would have to lie out in the sun for hours so their babies could develop!



All About...

Warming up

“In spring, when we come out of our winter hideouts, we spend much of the day basking in the sun. It sounds as if we’re a pretty lazy lot but in fact we have to do this so that we can warm up our bodies to at least 12°C. Then we have enough energy to start hunting. As the weather warms up, we don’t have to spend so much time basking. When it’s very cold and dull we don’t come out from our night-time shelters at all. We just have to fast until the weather improves.”

A tree trunk, stone or sunny bank make good basking spots. We choose the tips of bracken leaves because they are the sunniest. We try to lie as flat as possible so that every part of our body is warmed.



Be a Nature Detective

LIZARD SPOTTING

You have to be a pretty skilled nature detective to spot lizards. This is because they’re so small and, when they’re basking, they keep as still as statues. If you do spot one, stop in your tracks (if it hears or sees you it

will dart away) and use your detective eyes. Is it a fat female or a slimmer male? Does it have dark stripes down the back and sides or pale ones with dark spots? The spotted one is probably a much rarer Sand lizard (shown below).



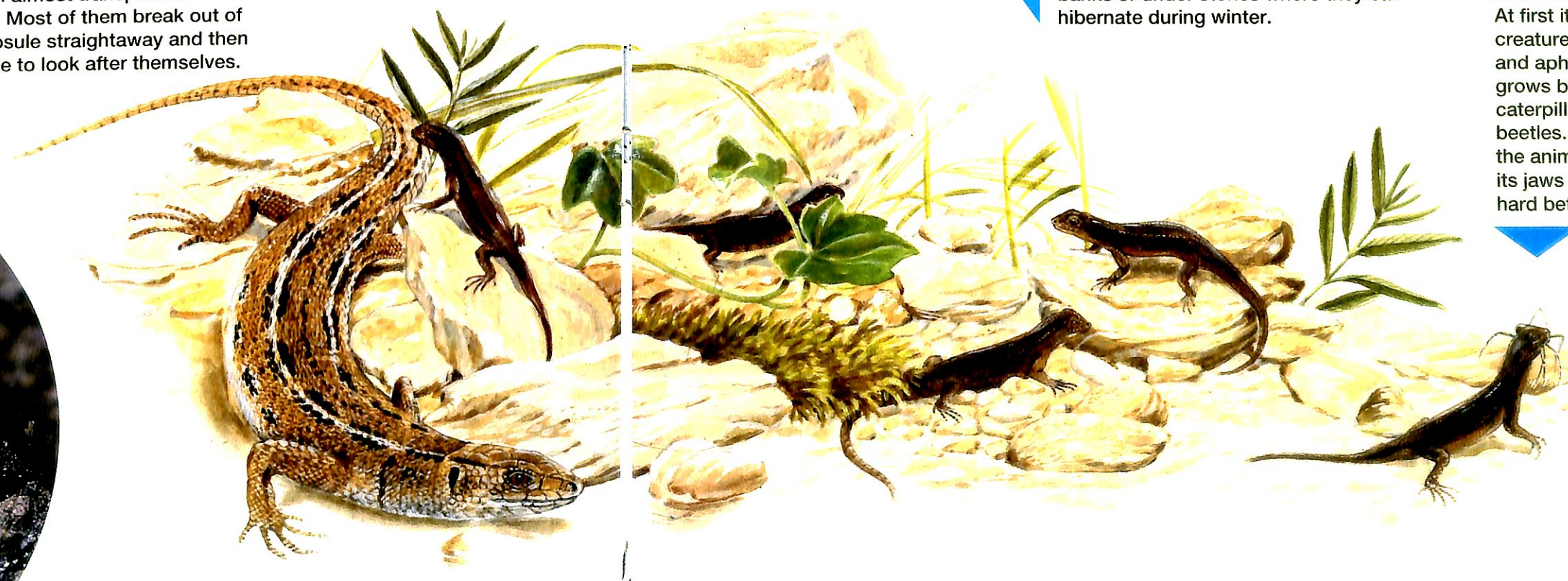
BREAKING FREE

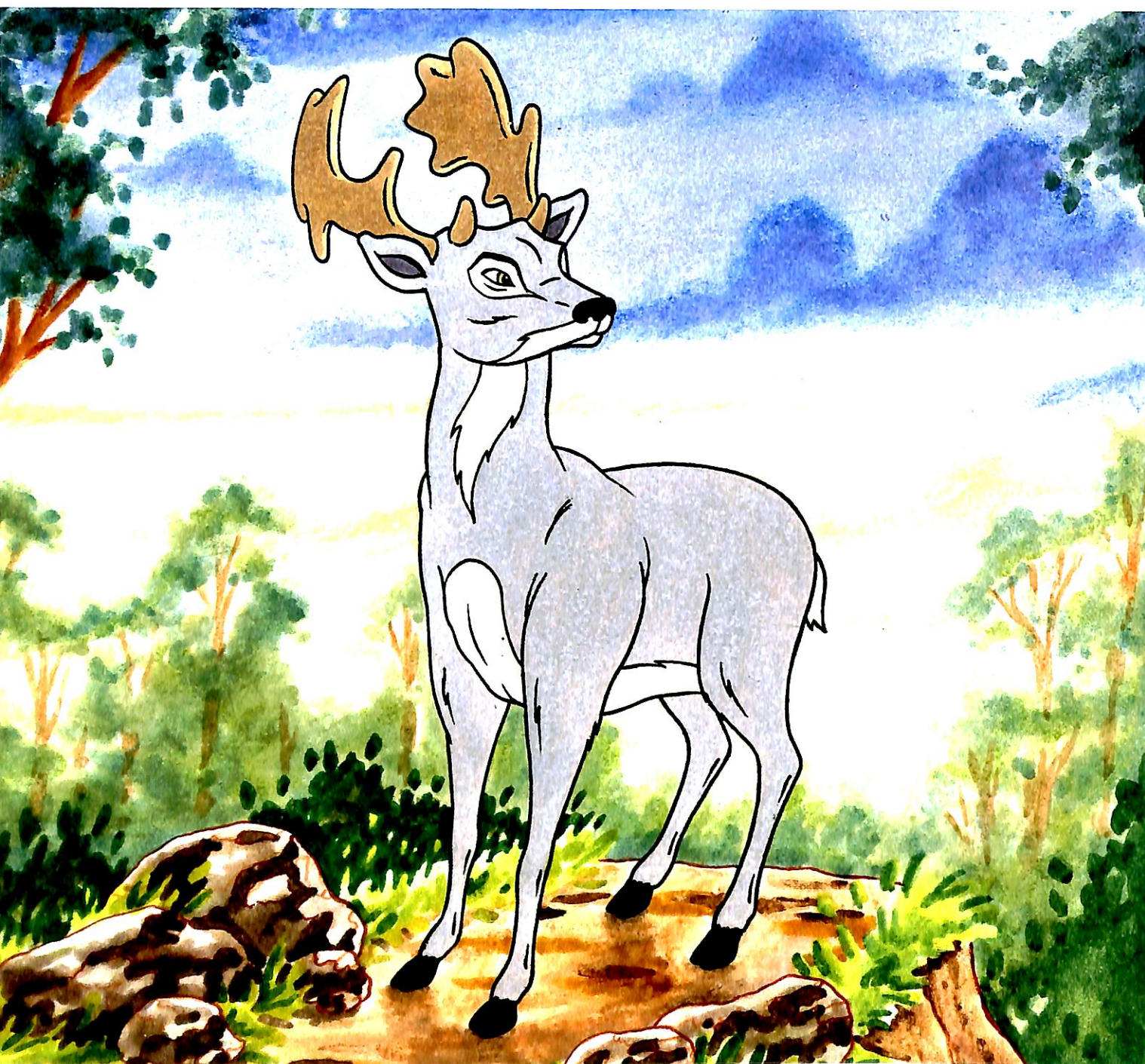
Males and females mate in spring and gradually the young develop inside the female. If the weather is hot and sunny they will grow more quickly. In the south of England the young are usually born in July, in the

north, not until August. Usually between 3 and 10 babies emerge, inside an almost transparent capsule. Most of them break out of their capsule straightaway and then they have to look after themselves.

When the weather turns cold at the end of autumn, Common lizards look for crevices between rocks, in hedgerow banks or under stones where they can hibernate during winter.

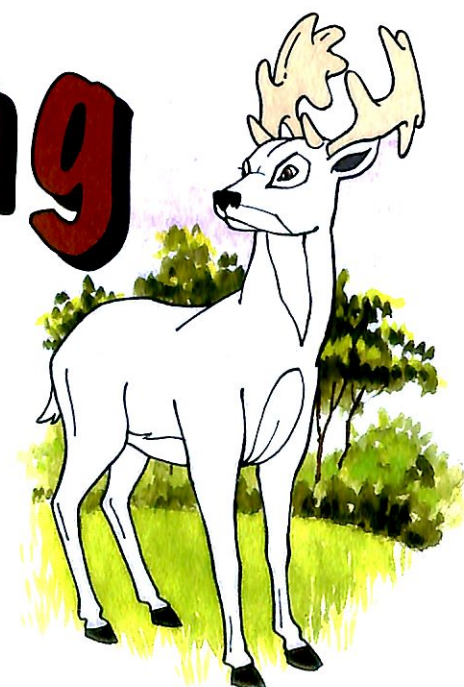
Once a baby lizard has taken its first few breaths of air it can run about and hunt for food. At first it takes small creatures, like spiders and aphids, but as it grows bigger it will catch caterpillars, flies and beetles. It darts towards the animal, snatches it in its jaws and shakes it hard before eating it.



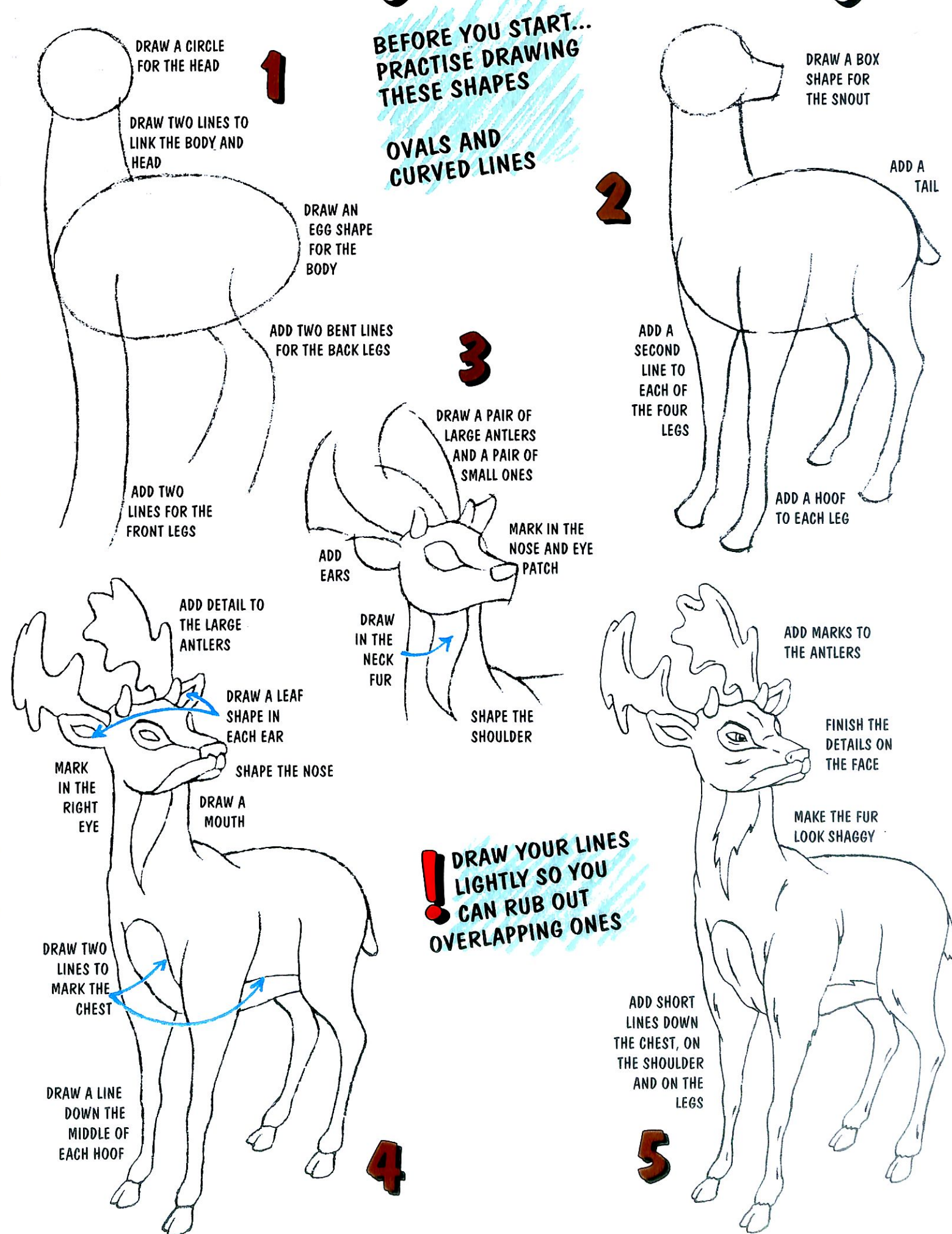


White Stag

The Great White Stag is the first to welcome the animals of Farthing Wood to White Deer Park. He is amazed by their journey and is happy to help them in any way he can. But not everyone in the park is quite so pleased to hear of the animals' arrival. Can Stag keep the peace in the Park?



Drawing White Stag



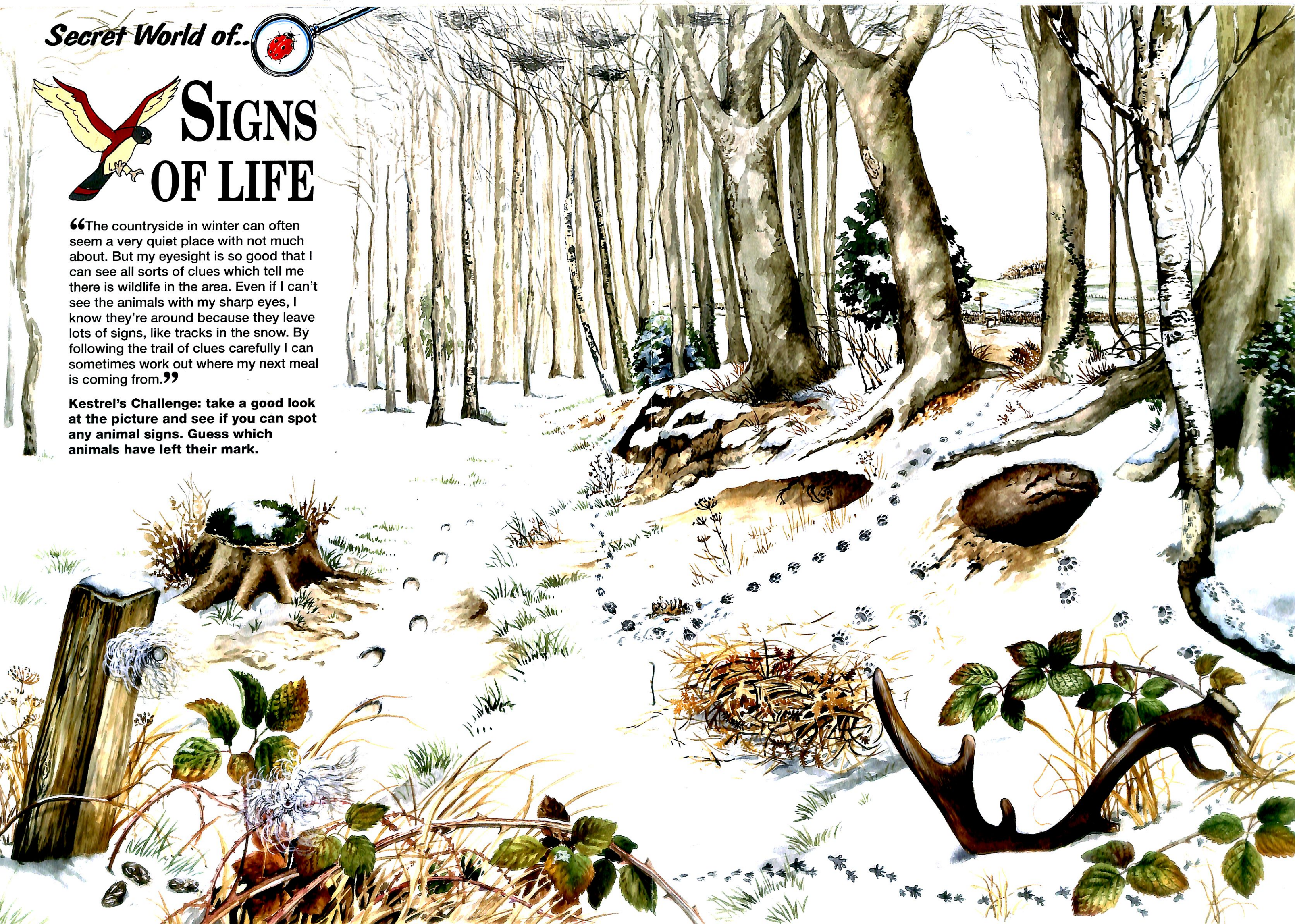
Secret World of..

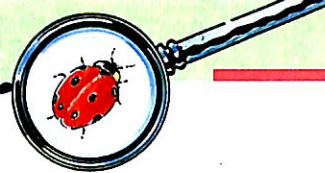


SIGNS OF LIFE

“The countryside in winter can often seem a very quiet place with not much about. But my eyesight is so good that I can see all sorts of clues which tell me there is wildlife in the area. Even if I can’t see the animals with my sharp eyes, I know they’re around because they leave lots of signs, like tracks in the snow. By following the trail of clues carefully I can sometimes work out where my next meal is coming from.”

Kestrel’s Challenge: take a good look at the picture and see if you can spot any animal signs. Guess which animals have left their mark.





Tree bark is eaten by quite a few animals, so you have to look carefully to tell which animal has had a nibble. Hares and rabbits strip bark at the bottom of trees and they leave large front teeth marks on the wood below.

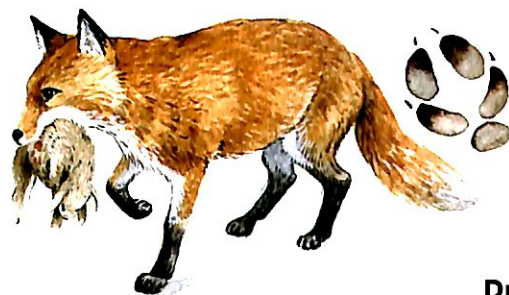


Owl pellets are small dry packages of fur, bone and feather. You might find some lying on the ground below an owl's favourite perch. Owls bring up the pellets which are made of the bits of their prey they can't eat.



Prickly bushes and barbed wire fences pick up bits of fur and wool as animals brush past. If you see tufts of greyish or white wool on a bush it means sheep have probably been passing.

Tell tale signs can be found at lots of different levels – on the ground, in the bushes and at the tops of trees. Did you find the signs left by all these animals?



A well-fed **Fox** leaves part of his kill behind. The leg bones and foot of a rabbit are typical Fox left-overs, particularly if they smell strong and musty.



Rook nests are a sure sign that Rooks are about. The nests are quite easy to spot in winter because they stand out in the top, leafless tree branches. Rooks nest in groups so you usually see several nests together.



A **Badger's sett** is often dug on a slope. If you find an entrance hole, look for a pile of old bedding outside which the Badger has thrown out. There may be black and white Badger hairs in the bedding, too.



Tracks and prints are the easiest clues to look for when there is snow or soft mud on the ground. The hard bit is working out which animal made the tracks. Did you spot the horseshoe and Brown rat prints?



Droppings can often give you clues about hidden wildlife. If you see whitish liquid splashed over a rock or boulder it could be a sign of a bird of prey, such as a Buzzard.



The **Red deer** stag usually sheds his antlers at the end of winter. If you find some, you know that deer have passed by – but when? Look for tracks and droppings to see if they're around.

DETECTIVE WORK



Be a Nature Detective

Look for animal footprints left in snow, mud or sand. Once you've identified who the track belongs to from the chart below, try following the trail to see where it goes ... does it lead to the animal's home?



CAT
Toes: 4
Length of foot: 3.5-4cm
No claw marks.



DOG
Toes: 4
Length of foot: varies enormously between breeds
Claw marks should be clear.



FALLOW DEER
Toes: 2
Length of foot: 6-6.5cm
Sets of prints at least 60cm apart.



FOX
Toes: 4
Length of foot: 5cm
Prints are usually in single file.



HARE
Toes: 4
Length of foot: 15cm (hind), 4cm (fore)
Look for hair marks around the track.



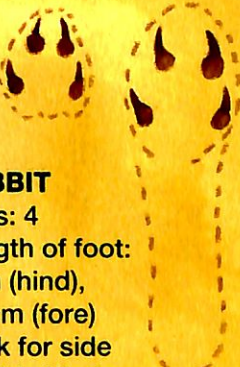
WEASEL
Toes: 5
Length of foot: 1-1.5cm
Look for a three-lobed pad mark.



BADGER
Toes: 5
Length of foot: 5-6cm
Look for long claw marks.



COMMON SHREW
Toes: 5
Length of foot: 0.8-1cm
You should also see a print of its tail.



RABBIT
Toes: 4
Length of foot: 6cm (hind), 3.5cm (fore)
Look for side by side hind prints.

What do you call a spy when he goes to bed?

An undercover agent.

Detectives try to find out all about crimes that have been committed. They search for clues, take fingerprints and collect as much information as they can to find out whodunnit. Have fun being a detective for a day and see what you can detect!

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN OUT TRACKING:

1 A good detective always has a sidekick with him and tells base where he's going.



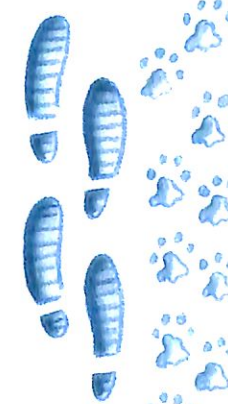
2 Take a notepad and pencil to make a note of any clues you find.



3 Take a tape measure with you to find out how long a footprint is.



4 Walk slowly and to one side of the animal's trail.



SEEDS

Most plants make seeds which grow into new plants. Some just drop their seeds on the ground below, but if they can get their seeds to sprout in a new place the plant will grow better. So how do seeds get to a good spot? Some get a good start in bright, juicy fruits. These attract mammals and birds, who eat them and the seeds come out again in droppings. Plant seeds are also spread by wind, water and pod explosion!

► FLAT TOP

These flat-topped cups are the seed heads of the Lotus plant. When the seeds are ripe they fall out of the pepper-pot cup and drop into the water. Then they float away and sprout in a suitable spot.



Those blasted
cling ons!

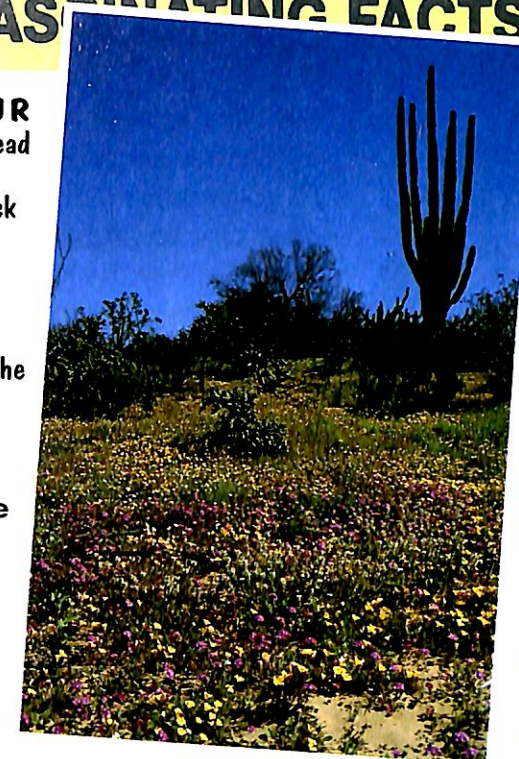


◀ BURRS IN THE FUR

Fox sometimes helps to spread seeds without even knowing it. Plants like Lesser burdock are covered in small seed cases, called burrs, which catch on Fox's fur with tiny hooks. When Fox scratches them off again they fall to the ground and the seeds inside may start to grow.

Q : What do we call the seeds of the Horse chestnut tree?

A : Conkers.



◀ DESERT BLOOM

It's hard to believe it but this colourful scene is in a desert. Seeds can lie in the dry desert ground for many years. But sometimes it rains and suddenly all the seeds sprout and flower. They are pollinated and make more seeds which can also lie around for years.

**IT'S
Amazing!**

COLD, OLD LUPIN

Some seeds, like those of this Arctic lupin, can wait in the ground for a long time until conditions are perfect for growing. In Canada, in 1954, scientists found some Arctic lupin seeds frozen in the ground. They eventually got them to grow, even though they were at least 10,000 years old.



▲ BIG SEED INDEED

The biggest seed in the world is the Coco-de-Mer nut which grows on palm trees in the Seychelles. In olden times, when the huge nut was found washed ashore, people thought it might be the fruit of an underwater tree.

► SOFT STUFF

The seeds of the Kapok tree are wrapped in light, fluffy, waterproof fibres and crammed inside a case. The soft fibres are sometimes collected and used for stuffing mattresses, pillows, furniture and toys.



▲ TIME FLIES

Dandelion seeds are attached to tiny parachutes which help to spread them by wind power. When the breeze catches a Dandelion head it can blow the parachutes high into the air so some drift quite a distance.

What bird always
succeeds?
no teeth.
A Budge with



◀ PRICKLY PROBLEM

The ripe seeds of the Prickly pear cactus are contained in spiky, red fruits. But the seeds don't often grow into new plants, the cactus usually spreads without them. Fallen fruit and other cactus pieces grow roots and shoots to make new plants.



▼ GUT REACTION

A fat Wood pigeon tucks into a crop of ripe Elderberries – each one with a seed. Acid in the bird's stomach softens the seeds' hard shells to prepare them for growing. When they pass out in its droppings they hit the ground with a fresh supply of fertilizer.

Puzzle it out ???

LUNCH WITH THE HARES

SCRAMBLED NAMES

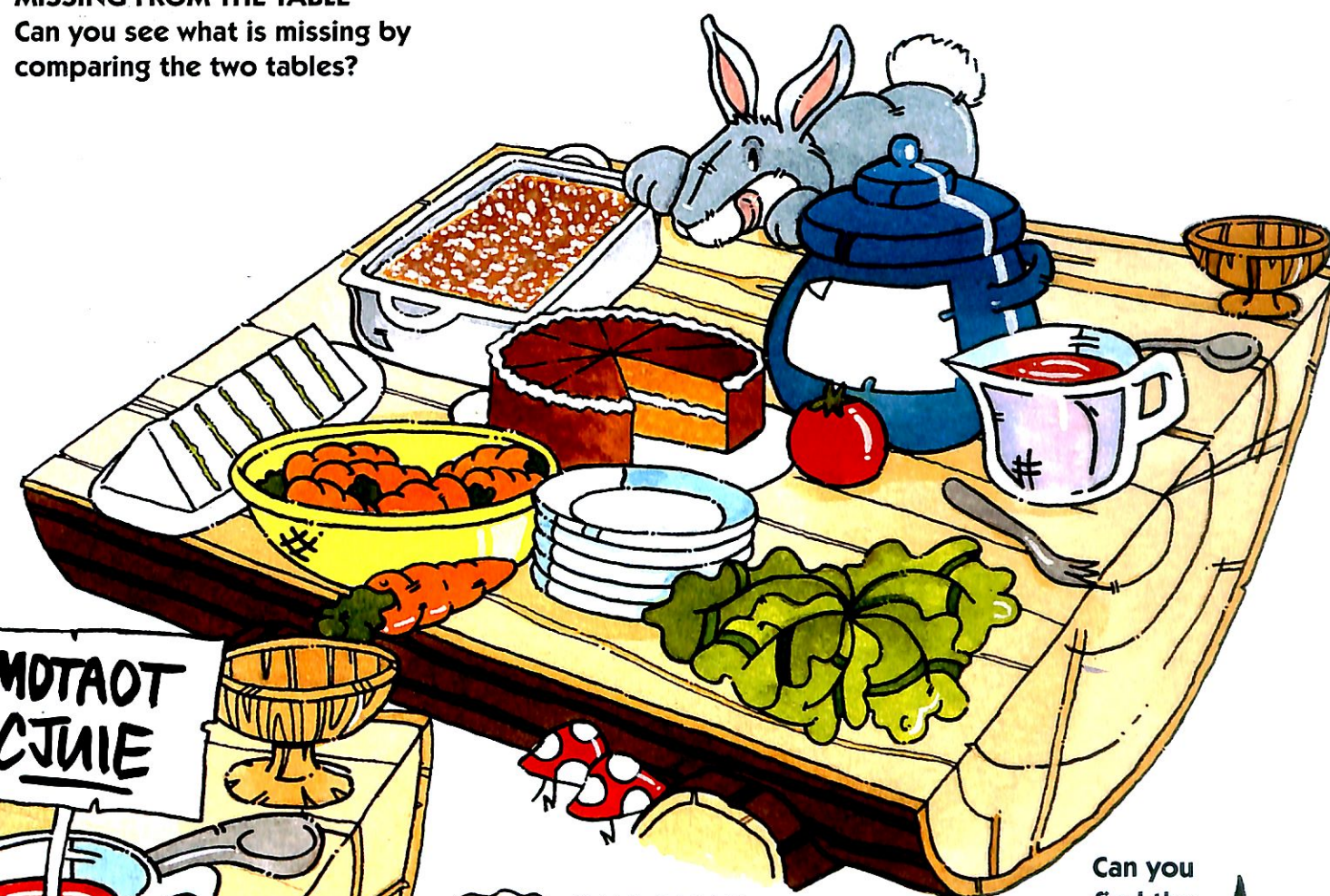
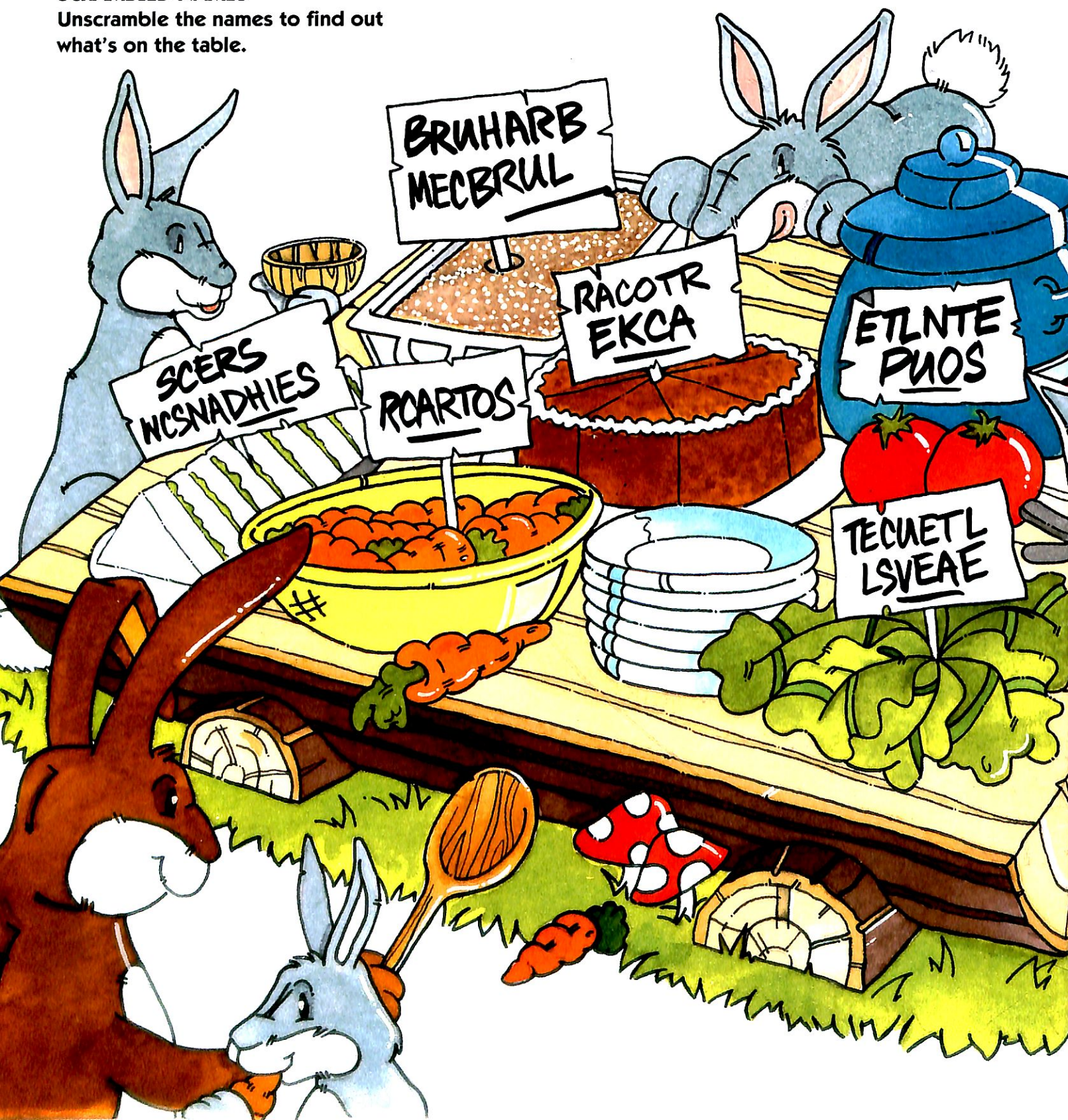
Unscramble the names to find out what's on the table.

Mrs Hare sometimes asks the Rabbits over for Sunday lunch. The Rabbits are pleased to go because Mrs Rabbit never seems to have time to prepare really super meals.

One Sunday the Rabbits arrived at the Hares' home to find the table laden with all their favourite dishes. After chatting for a while, Mrs Hare turned towards the table – and stopped dead in her tracks. Someone had already helped themselves to her food!

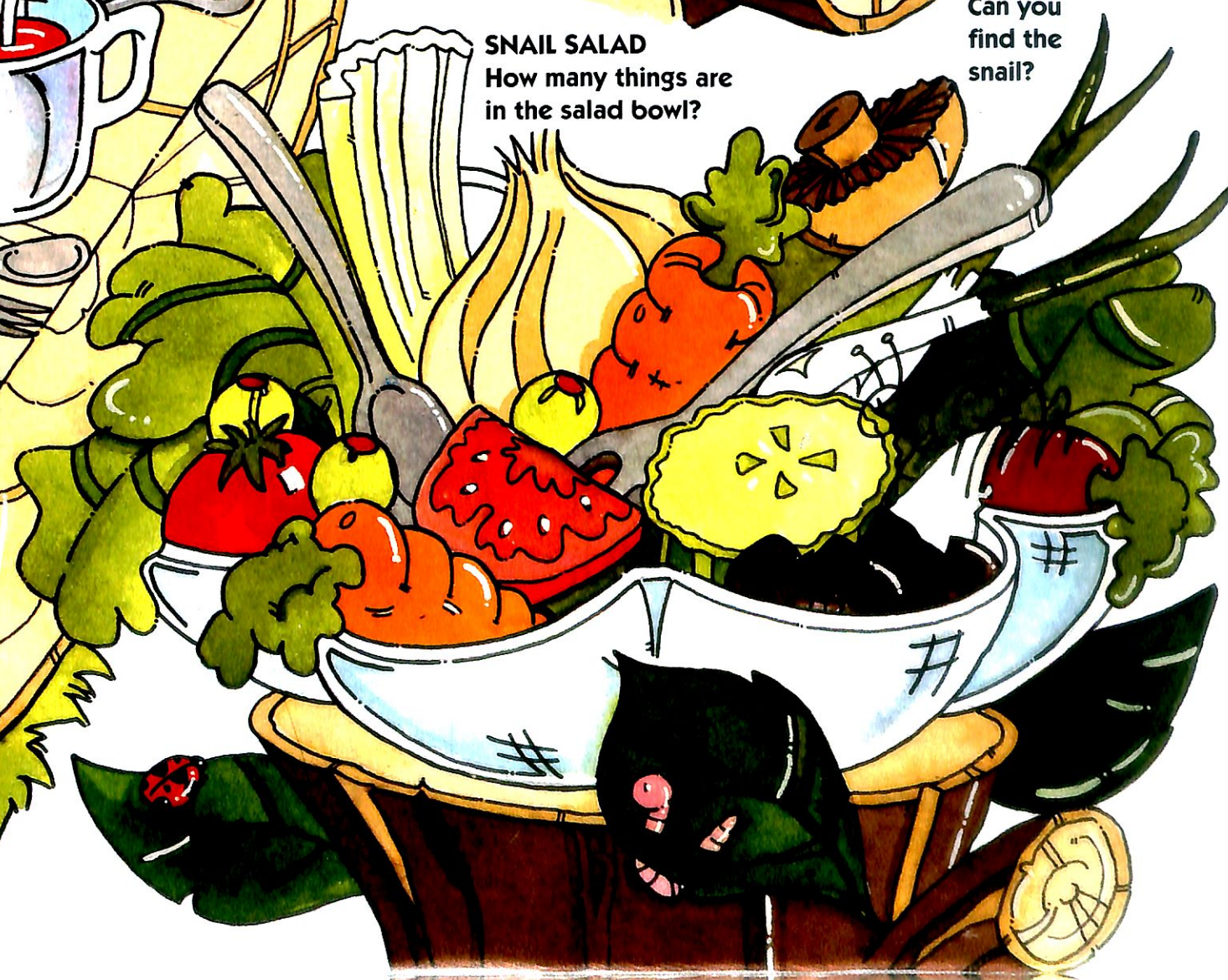
MISSING FROM THE TABLE

Can you see what is missing by comparing the two tables?



SNAIL SALAD
How many things are in the salad bowl?

Can you find the snail?



Puzzle it out ???

"What's wrong?" asked Mrs Rabbit.

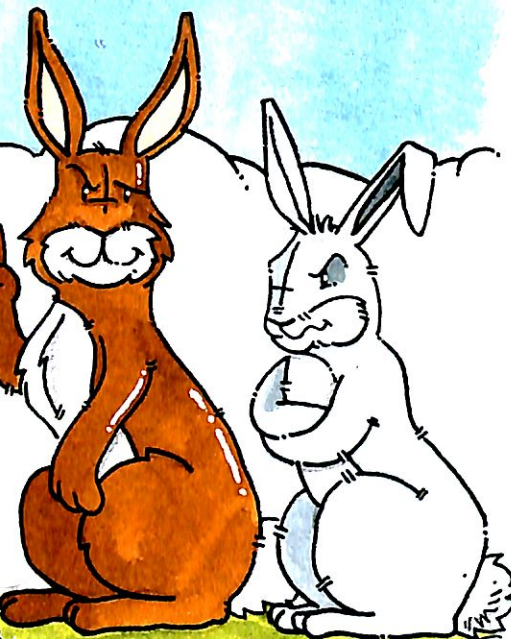
"Well, it seems that someone has already started," said Mrs Hare, looking puzzled.

"Oh no! How rude!" Mrs Rabbit looked at her offspring. "Now, was it one of you lot?" She looked at her youngsters carefully until something gave one of them away. She pounced on the guilty rabbit.

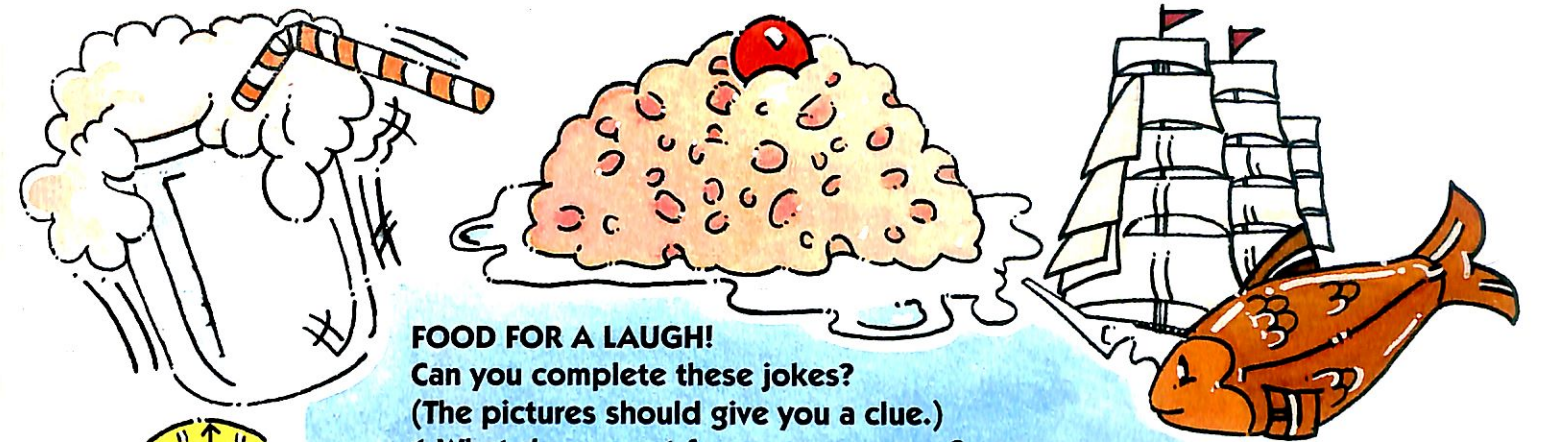
"You're a disgrace," she said angrily. "Apologize at once to Mrs Hare."

The little Rabbit blushed pink to the tips of his ears. "I'm so sorry," he said. "Your food was just too good to wait."

"That's all right," replied Mrs Hare. "No harm done. Now let's all tuck in!" Which is what they did.



GUILTY RABBIT
Can you see what Mrs Rabbit saw and find the guilty Rabbit?



FOOD FOR A LAUGH!

Can you complete these jokes?
(The pictures should give you a clue.)

1 What do you get from nervous cows?

Milk — !

2 What do you get when hundreds of strawberries are squashed in a lift?

Strawberry —!

3 What's the best thing to eat in a bath?

A — cake.

4 What kind of shoes can you make from banana skins?

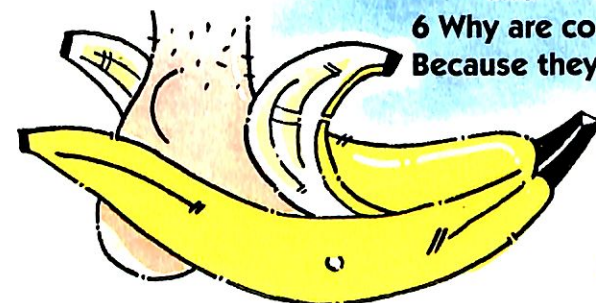
S —.

5 What's the favourite food of sea monsters?

— and —.

6 Why are cooks bullies?

Because they — eggs and — cream.



ANSWERS

SCRAMBLED NAMES Rhubarb crumble, nettle soup, tomato juice, cress sandwiches, carrot cake, lettuce leaves, carrots.

MISSING FROM THE TABLE 2 sandwiches, piece of cake, plate, spoon, tomato, carrot.

SNAIL SALAD 11 — Cucumber, tomato, carrot, lettuce, nuts, celery, olives, radish, spring onions, onion, mushroom.

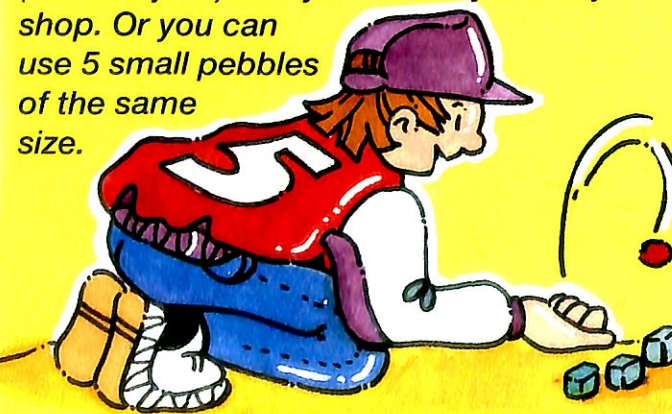
GUILTY RABBIT The middle rabbit has tomato juice on him.

FOOD FOR A LAUGH 1 Milk shakes. 2 Strawberry jam. 3 Sponge cake. 4 Slippers. 5 Fish and ships. 6 They beat eggs and whip cream.

JACKS

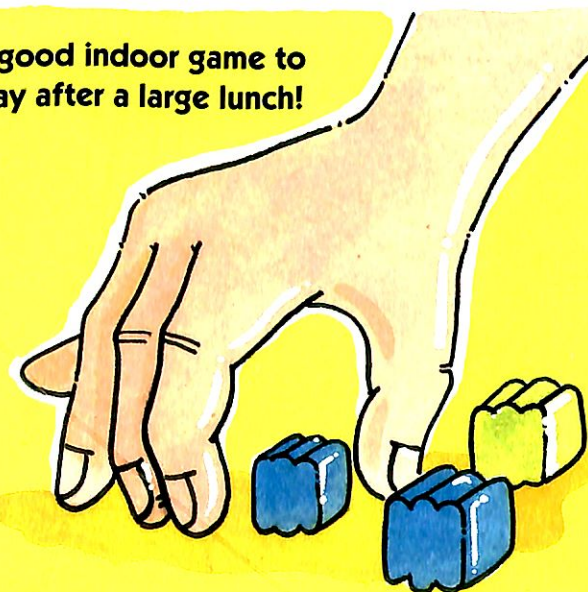
A good indoor game to play after a large lunch!

This game is played with 4 jacks and a ball (or extra jack) that you can buy in a toy shop. Or you can use 5 small pebbles of the same size.

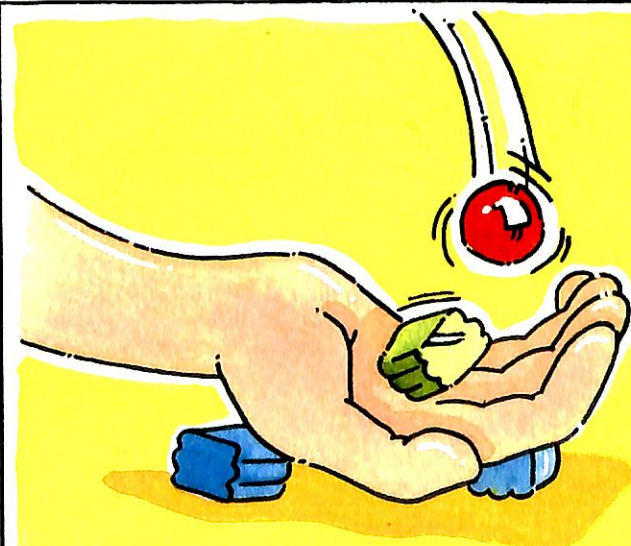


1 Put four jacks on the floor and throw the ball or fifth jack up in the air.

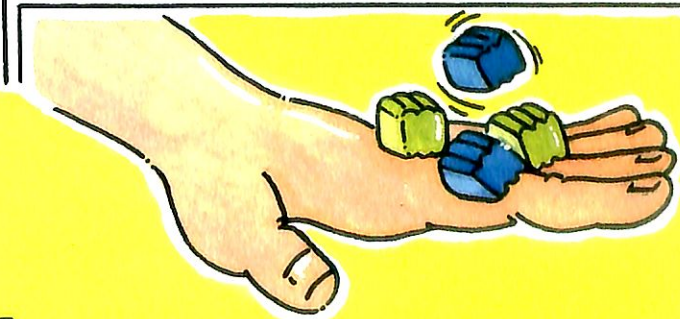
2 Quickly pick up one of the jacks ...



3 ...then catch the ball or fifth jack with the same hand. Try and pick up the next jack while still holding the first one in your hand — and go on until you have them all.



4 Once you can do this quite easily, try picking up two jacks at a time... then three... then all four.

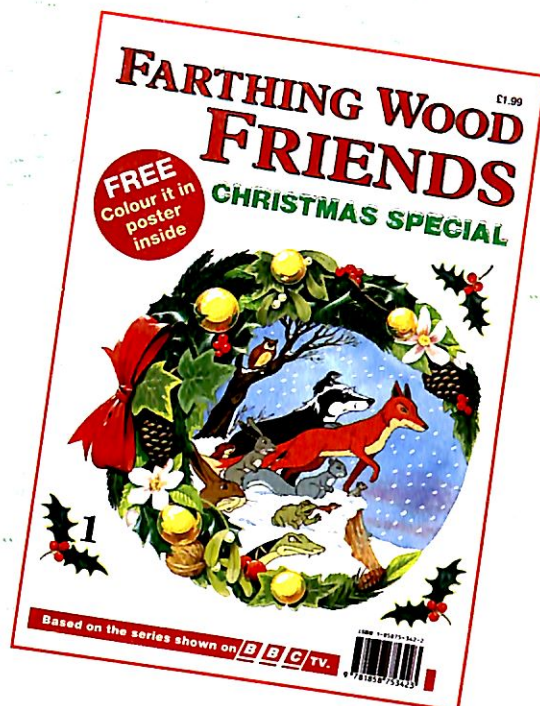


5 You can also try catching them on the back of your hand. Keep your fingers straight and slightly apart and you will be able to catch the jacks between them!

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